

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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P R 081715Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7261

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

NOUAKCHOTT 29

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NY 2084

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, GB, OAU

SUBJ: OAU MEETING ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 002925

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BONGO APPEARS DOUBTFUL OAU SUMMIT WILL PRODUCE MEANINGFUL PROGRESS TOWARD ANGOLAN SETTLEMENT, AND EXPECTS FRIENDS OF FNLA/UNITA WILL HAVE TO MOVE TOWARD RECOGNITION IN WAKE OF ADDIS ABABA SESSION. ALTHOUGH ISCOURAGED BY RECENT DEFECTIONS, BONGO STILL HOPEFUL THAT SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES WILL RECOGNIZE FNLA/UNITA TO ATTRACT SIGNIFICANT RECOGNITIONS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE MEETING JANUARY 8 WITH DOD SURVEY TEAM (SEPTTEL),

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PRESIDENT BONGO APPEARED GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS

FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME AT OAU MINISTERIAL AND SUMMIT SESSIONS. CHADIAN DECISION RECOGNIZE MPLA, FOLLOWING ON HEELS OF SIMILAR ACTIONS BY BURUNDI AND LIBYA AFTE ALL THREE HAD PROMISED HIM THAT THEY WOULD TAKE NO ACTION BEFORE OAU MEETING, HAD CLEARLY LEFT HIM DISCOURAGED. NONETHELESS, HE FOUND CONTINUED HOPE, HE SAID, IN FACT THAT 25 OAU MEMBER STATES HAD THUS FAR HELD LINE AGAINST RECOGNITION AND THAT MOST OF THESE (WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS OF ETHIOPIA AND MAURITIUS) SEEMED LIKELY FAVOR FNLA/UNITA RATHER THAN MPLA IF FORCED TO CHOOSE IN WAKE OAU SUMMIT.

3. PRESIDENT REPORTED ON HIS CONTINUED EFFORTS TO HOLD UNCOMMITTED STATES IN LINE. DELEGATION JUST BACK FROM MOROCCO (MINSTATE FOR ECONOMY MOUKAMBI AND MINFINANCE OKINDA) HAD RETURNED WITH WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM NASSAN THAT GOM WILL NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA, WHILE TWO RECENT MAURITANIAN EMISSARIES (LIBREVILLE 21) HAD BROUGHT HIM SIMILAR ASSURANCE FROM MOKHTAR. LATTER, ACCORDING TO BONGO, HAD BEEN TOLD HIS CHOICE WAS BETWEEN "ALGERIAN REVOLUTION" AND "MOROCCAN REACTIONARY MONARCHY," AND HAD OPTED TO STAY WITH MOROCCANS. FURTHER GOG DELEGATION (HEADED BY MINEDUCATION MARTIN BONGO, NEPHEW OF PRESIDENT) STILL TOURING WEST AFRICA, WITH IVORY COAST AND TOGO MENTIONED AMONG STOPS. BONGO HAD HIMSELF TALKED ON PHONE PREVIOUS DAY WITH HOUPHOUET, WHO REPORTED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE AND CONCERTED FURTHER ON TACTICS.

4. PRESIDENT SAID HE DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT HAD FINALLY IMPELLED CHAD AND LIBYA TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. HE FOUND IT HARD TO ENVISAGE INDUCEMENT OFFERED BY BOUMEDIENE WHICH COULD HAVE SWAYED QADHAFI, BUT HYPOTHESIZED THAT LATTER MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED LARGELY BY VISION OF GREATY POLITY WHICH HAD ELUDED HIM IN ABORTIVE UNIFICATION EFFORTS WITH EGYPT AND TUNISIA. AS FOR CHAD, BONGO SAID, HE WOULD TELL MALLOUM THAT RECOGNITION OF MPLA WOULD COST HIM SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF GOG WHICH HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING DURING RECENT MONTHS, JUST AS SIMILAR BURUNDIAN ACTION WOULD INHIBIT DEVELOPMENT OF GOB-GOG BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. BONGO CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT HE HAD AGAIN URGED MOBUTU TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE LEAD IN RECOGNIZING FNLA/UNITA REGIME IN EVENT OAU SUMMIT FAILS (AS HE EXPECTS) TO PRODUCE FORMULA FOR ANGOLAN SETTLEMENT AND GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION. IF EVEN 15 OAU MEMBER STATES FOLLOW SUIT, PRESIDENT SAID, HE WOULD EXPECT LARGE NUMBER

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OF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE AFRICA TO DO LIKEWISE. WITH ARABS, BONGO ADDED, HE WOULD BE PREPARED USE THREAT OF RESUMING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL TO INDUCE DESIRED ACTION, PARTICULARLY SINCE ARAB STATE (ALGERIA) IS IN FOREFRONT OF PRO-MPLA FORCES.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE RECENT DEFECTIONS BY STATES HE CONSIDERED SOLIDLY ON HIS SIDE, BONGO CONTINUES TO DISPLAY HIS CHARACTERISTIC OPTIMISM -- AT LEAST FOR OUR BENEFIT. NONETHELESS, FACT HE HAD BEEN

WORKING ON HIS OWN HAND-WRITTEN LIST OF OAU STATES STILL UNCOMMITTED  
TO ONE FACTION OR ANOTHER PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF PRESSURE HE IS  
FEELING, AS DOES INCREASED TEMPO OF EFFORTS HE IS UNDERTAKING TO  
STIFFEN THESE STATES AGAINST RECOGNITION OF MPLA. UNDER PRESENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES, EVERY FRESH DEFECTION TO MPLA RANKS WILL ADD TO  
GABONESE NERVOUSNESS, BUT BONGO STILL SEEMS FULLY COMMITTED  
TO HOLDING THE LINE HIMSELF AND TO LENDING HIS PRESTIGE TO EFFORTS  
ON BEHALF OF FNLA/UNITA COALITION. STEIGMAN

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